

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 1672 ACTION SECSTATE 9 FEB

QUOTE UNCLAS CAIRO 1672

PASS NASA,NSF, INTERIOR, ERDA

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: TPHY, EG

SUBJECT: REMOTE SENSING SURVEY OF QATTARA DEPRESSION

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY LETTER TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE REMOTE SENSING RESEARCH PROJECT OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. ABDEL-HADY, PROJECT DIRECTOR) HAS RECENTLY SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY FOR A REGIONAL SURVEY OF THE QATTARA DEPRESSION USING REMOTE SENSING TECHNIQUES.

2. THE CONTRACT (L.E. 56,000) IS FOR THE USE OF LANDSAT/ FRTS-1 IMAGERY IN THE FIRST STAGE OF A GEOLOGICAL MAPPING PROJECT ENCOMPASSING STRUCTURE AND DRAINAGE, A SECOND STAGE (NOT CONTRACTED FOR) WOULD INCLUDE USE OF REMOTE SENSING AIRCRAFT AND GROUND EXPLORATION. THE FIRST STAGE WOULD COMPLEMENT A COMPLETED STUDY COVERING AREA FROM WEST DELTA TO LIBYA AND WOULD FOCUS ON LITHOLOGY AND STRUCTURAL LINEATIONS ESPECIALLY EXTENSIONS OF KNOWN FAULT LINES, INVESTIGATIONS OF THERMALLY ACTIVE FAULTS; AND DRAINAGE. SECOND STAGE WOULD INCLUDE STUDY

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OF THE EFFECT OF NUCLEAR OR OTHER BLAST METHODS AND EFFECT OF

SALT WATER ENTRUSION ON EXISTING FRESH WATER AQUIFERS AND
OASIS SPRINGS IN THE GENERAL REGION.

3. (COMMENT)-REMOTE SENSING PROJECT SUPPORTED BY NSF,
HAS RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE FROM AID AND GOE AND HAS
BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL, COMING TO THE ATTENTIONS OF PRESIDENT
SADAT. GOE HAS RECENTLY BUDGETED FOR A NEW, ADDITIONAL,
AIRPLANE (PROBABLY BEECH) MAKING THREE. FUTURE OF ACTIVITY
SEEMS ASSURED FOR NEXT TWO YEARS. PROJECT IS NOW EXPANDING
INTO CONTRACT WORK FOR GOE AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
F. G. FAO AND THOUGHT TO BEING GIVEN TO
POSSIBILITIES FOR A REGIONAL ROLE IN THE FUTURE.
EILTS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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